

years ago, we had about the same thing come up in northeast Nebraska in regards to the Norfolk Regional Center. Let me report to you here today that the Norfolk Regional Center, the last time I checked anyway, was filled to capacity as was the Hastings Regional Center and the Lincoln Regional Center. So this body did do the right thing. As I recall, during the hearing, the administration certainly didn't put up very good facts, very good facts in closing the center. I think this is about the same way with Geneva. I talked to the judge in my area about Geneva. He says that we very definitely need it open. After I analyzed all the pluses, I felt the same way. So I would urge you, here today, to let's go ahead and keep it open. Maybe we should analyze it again in two, or three, or four, or five years. But for the time being anyway I think it will be money well spent.

PRESIDENT: I see no other lights for recognition. Senator Eret, you may close. Motion is to advance your bill, 709.

SENATOR ERET: Mr. President and members, in closing I would like to remind you of several things that came out in the hearing. For one thing judges from throughout the state have indicated their support of this bill. The cost of four hundred and some dollars...four hundred and some thousand dollars has been brought up as the reason that there was a consideration for combining the two. However, I think we need to consider the fact that there are very few returns to Geneva. That, in itself, would offset any cost that has been brought out just by not having to go through all the proceedings of recommitting people. There is a question of whether there really is room at Kearney. I heard this morning that a boy that was committed there last week...or recommitted as a parolee has already again been paroled before the papers of delivery have even been returned to the court that committed him. So it is very questionable that there is room there. They are apparently full, that is the reason of having to release for parole. Also the cost on programming of Geneva doesn't appear to be that much higher than the cost of a...a daily cost of attendance at any high school. So I don't think the costs are that far out of line in that respect. It was brought out at the hearing too, what would happen as a result if commingling the boys and girls, both groups of which have initial problems of their own, and that if we come up with a pregnancy at Kearney then as a result of this combination, where does the state stand then? Do we start again another third round of welfarism